

Worksession

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	July 23, 2007
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Update on Planning for the 2007 City Election
Background	<p>The Board of Elections held their organizational meeting on Thursday, June 28. At that meeting, the City Clerk briefed the Board on several decision points that need to be addressed related to the upcoming election.</p> <p>Location of Polling Place</p> <p>In recent years, city elections have been held at the Municipal Building / Community Center. For the Ward 5 special election held in January, the polling place was located in Ward 5 at Wilkinson Hall, Columbia Union College. While allowing voters to cast their ballots at a polling place close to home has some advantages, staff recommends that the Community Center be used as the polling place for all wards in the upcoming election. Keeping all judges in one location will allow for easier set up for the election and simplicity in providing meals and breaks to judges. If questions come up, having the Board, Clerk, and all judges in one location allows for quick consultation and resolution. Parking can be controlled at the Community Center. In addition, election staff will have access to City Administration staff for additional support if needed. The Board concurred with this recommendation.</p> <p>For this election, the plan is to make use of the main level front lobby, the atrium lobby, atrium room, and the meeting rooms on the main level. Exactly how each area will be used, and how voters will be routed through the space, will be worked out as planning progresses.</p> <p>Paper Ballots</p> <p>The City Council authorized the use of paper ballots in the 2005 election and 2007 special election. The City Clerk requested the Board's assistance with reviewing alternatives to hand counting ballots. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to find an alternative.</p> <p>The City Clerk had done some research into available technology, including the system demonstrated after the Ward 5 special election. The Board will host a demonstration of this system at their next meeting, on Tuesday, July 31, at 7:00 p.m. in the Azalea Room. The meeting and the demonstration are open to the public. Councilmembers are encouraged to attend the meeting. Other systems, if available, will be demonstrated at a later date.</p> <p>The Council will be asked to adopt an ordinance setting forth the details of the</p>

	election prior to the Nominating Caucus. In order for planning to progress over the August recess, staff is requesting preliminary direction from the Council regarding location of the polling place and further exploration of ballot counting technology.
Policy	<p>City Charter, Section 607 Conduct of Elections Generally</p> <p><i>(a) The Council, by ordinance, shall provide for said elections; shall designate in said ordinance a convenient polling place or places; shall appoint judges of election; shall designate the manner of holding said election; shall designate and provide the voting system to be used; and shall conduct said elections in accordance with the provisions of this section.</i></p>
Fiscal Impact	None at this time – for discussion only. \$15,000 has been included in the FY08 budget for election expenses.
Attachments	None
Recommendation	Council to provide direction to staff.
Special Consideration	